

25X1A

(memo written for [REDACTED] 1952-53)

1. Research & Development Branch (R&D) organized as independent branch reporting directly to Donovan, 17 Oct 42. Grew out of Technical Development Section under SA/G, COI. Mission: development of special weapons and equipment necessary to subversive warfare, items necessary to support agent cover, camouflage of personal accessories or devices to facilitate special operations, and collection and dissemination of information on all types of equipment developed within or without the agency that would be of use in OSS activities. Liaison with OSRD, NDRC and other elements of government.
2. SSU operational auxiliaries included Commo Section and Operational Auxiliaries Branch includes some personnel engaged in research in such subjects and ~~wireless~~ special wireless communication equipment for clandestine agents, documentation intelligence and secret inks.
3. OSO original set-up, outlined in SODir #7, 4 Dec 46, included a Chief, Projects Support Division under the Executive to ADSO, who had a bastard form of authority over six sections. The sections were under the CIG Executive, so the Ch., PS Div, was more an ambassador or suppliant than authorized to exercise authority. One of the sections was a Secret Section, which carried on the mission of R&D Branch-Ops Aux Branch.
4. SODir #18, 6 Jun 47, was put out in anticipation of revised instructions of the DCI which would give ADSO complete control of his major supporting services. Projects Support Division was replaced by a Chief, Administrative Services, and Secret Section was replaced by a Cover and Documentation Division which became an integral part of SO. At the same time a Special Equipment Staff was established under the Chief of Operations, SO, thus dividing the old R&D Branch mission between two separate elements of SO.
5. On 1 Jan 49, under authority of CIA General Orders # 11 and 12, the Executive, CIA, again assumed central control of all CIA administrative support functions. However neither the Cover and Documentation Division nor the Special Equipment Staff were removed from SO. Instead they were combined into an Operational Aids Division which reported directly to ADSO. This arrangement was not formalized in the record until 11 Oct 49, by SODir #18/9/
6. OPC activated its own Research & Development Branch in February 1950. It operated under a system of sub-contracting specific undertaking either to private organizations or to the Armed Services. It was redesignated Research & Development Division on 8 Jun 51.
7. Under CIA Regulation #70, 4 Jan 51, many provisions of which were never put into effect, the Operational Aids Division was placed directly under the DDPlans, with no change in name. The name was later changed to Technical Services Staff, and this new combined element was functioning by September 1951 in anticipation of the merger of OSO and Opce which was formalized in January 1952. TSS has gradually assumed an organizational status similar to that of Communications, and as of July 1952 will be officially designated an Office instead of a Staff. Its chief is an Assistant Director.